



**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

July 27, 2010

**1248**

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

On March 9, 2010, a diverse group of interests urged the Commission to reform and update the existing retransmission consent rules. The Commission recently concluded the comment period on this petition, with cable operators, satellite operators, telecommunications companies, independent programmers and public interest groups all filing in support of reform. We now urge the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

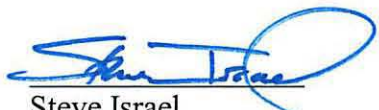
Under the Commission's rules, and pursuant to the statutory provisions in the 1992 Cable Act, multichannel video programming distributors ("MVPDs") – principally cable, satellite, and telephone company video systems – and broadcasters are required to negotiate in good faith for the right to retransmit local broadcast signals. For many years, these negotiations were concluded smoothly.

Increasingly, however, these negotiations are breaking down. Broadcasters claim they are not sufficiently compensated for their signals, and MVPDs claim they are trying to keep programming costs down. We have serious concerns with the harm these disputes are having on our constituents, who either lose access to broadcast programming or bear the increased costs of such programming in the form of more expensive bills from their pay-TV provider.

Given the harm to consumers under the current system, and considering the significant marketplace developments since the retransmission consent regime was created in 1992, we believe that it is time for the Commission to reexamine its rules governing retransmission consent and act to protect consumers.

We urge the Commission to issue quickly a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to protect consumer access to broadcast programming. We ask that you respond with the expected timing for when the Commission will initiate a proceeding on this issue.

Sincerely,



Steve Israel  
Member of Congress



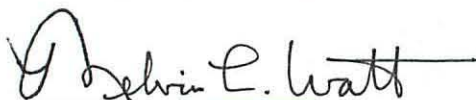
Peter King  
Member of Congress



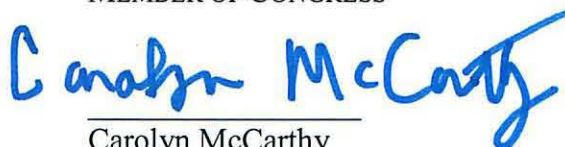
Albio Sires  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



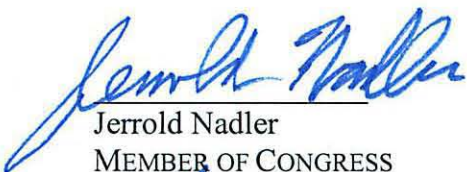
Steve Rothman  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



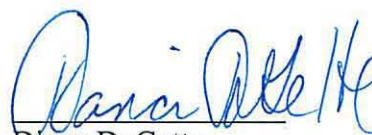
Mel Watt  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Carolyn McCarthy  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Jerrold Nadler  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Diana DeGette  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Nita Lowey  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Rush Holt  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Emanuel Cleaver  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Tim Bishop  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



Ed Perlmutter  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Timothy H. Bishop  
U.S. House of Representatives  
306 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Bishop:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

As you noted, the period established for public comment on the *Petition* recently closed. The Commission's Media Bureau is reviewing the record compiled in the proceeding to develop recommendations for Commission consideration. Given the importance of this matter to a wide range of consumers and businesses, we intend to treat this matter seriously.

Please do not hesitate to let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Julius Genachowski



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Steven Israel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2457 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Israel:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Rush Holt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1214 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Holt:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2335 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1027 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cleaver:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Melvin Watt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2304 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Watt:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Albio Sires  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1024 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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September 28, 2010

The Honorable Steven R. Rothman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2303 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rothman:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
415 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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September 28, 2010

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2334 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Carolyn McCarthy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2346 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCarthy:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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September 28, 2010

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2329 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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WASHINGTON

September 28, 2010

The Honorable Peter T. King  
U.S. House of Representatives  
339 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter concerning the *Petition for Rulemaking* that was filed with the Commission by a coalition of multichannel video programming distributors and public interest groups seeking to reform the Commission's retransmission consent rules. I appreciate your interest in this important matter. The Commission will include your letter in the record of this proceeding and consider your views carefully.

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